

105. The method of claim 104 wherein the off-hook detecting step comprises the steps of:

- (a) generating one of a positive and negative voltage change using a plurality of diodes, 5 whereby a positive voltage change represents that the telephone line is on-hook and a negative voltage change represents that the telephone line is off-hook;
- (b) detecting the voltage change with a plurality of discrete circuits;
- (c) indicating the voltage change with a light emitting diode, whereby a lit light emitting diode indicates a negative voltage change and a dim light emitting diode indicates a 10 positive voltage change; and
- (d) relaying the voltage change to the first processing step.

106. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of disconnecting the call to the pre-programmed telephone number after a predetermined number rings, whereby the the 15 disconnecting step prevents the call from incurring a telephone toll charge.

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is for a sensing device that monitors the conditions of a remote location. The device has a detecting means which detects the conditions at the remote location; a transmitting module that reads and remotely transmits information containing the detected 20 conditions and the power level of a power source powering the transmitting module; a base module that receives, selectively processes and conveys the information telephonically; and an identifying means that identifies the remote location of the call without incurring a telephone toll charge. The invention is also directed to a method of sensing conditions at a remote location without incurring telephone toll charges.